

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: H. TACHIHARA, et al

Filed: on even date herewith

For: PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT METHOD, SYSTEM AND  
PROGRAM

**CLAIM FOR PRIORITY**

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

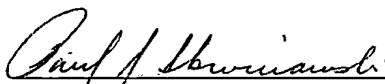
March 24, 2004

Sir:

Under the provisions of 35 USC §119 AND 37 CFR § 1.55, Applicants hereby  
claim the right of priority based on **Japanese** Patent Application No. **2003-158263**  
filed **June 3, 2003**.

Respectfully submitted,

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